

**T . I . M . S .**
digital business works

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January 11, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

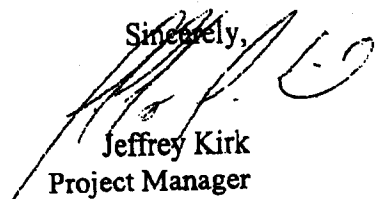
I am writing because I am concerned about the status of the settlement reached between Microsoft and the federal government. I understand nine states and DC were party to the lawsuit, but refuse to join the settlement, and that they and Microsoft's business adversaries are trying to scuttle it in order to continue suing Microsoft. To allow this to happen would be a miscarriage of justice as well as cause a potentially devastating impact on the technology industry.

The government went too far when it filed charges against Microsoft and the lawsuit should have never taken place. However, the settlement is a much better alternative to continued, protracted, and costly litigation at the taxpayers' expense. Settling this matter will also allow Microsoft to re-focus its attention.

Interestingly enough, the issues at hand are out of date because Microsoft had already taken steps to improve its relationships with its vendors and OEM's. In spite of this, Microsoft's adversaries proceeded with the lawsuit. Their intentions were not pure and consequently led to a three-year-long court battle that negatively impacted the technology industry with respect to innovation.

The settlement is totally fair and should be accepted by all of the parties involved. It addresses and resolves all of the complaints against Microsoft. In fact, it goes above and beyond the scope of the original complaints. I urge you, as a member of the IT Industry, to move forward with finalizing the settlement.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey Kirk
Project Manager

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